AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 5 (Cancelled)

6. (New) A ball joint comprising:

a ball joint including a housing, a ball stud and a sealing bellows which lies against said housing and said ball stud in order to seal between said housing and said ball stud, said ball stud having a holding surface against which a sealing surface of said sealing bellows lies, said sealing surface defining a first axial dimension, said holding surface defining a second axial dimension, wherein said first axial dimension of said sealing surface of said sealing bellows is greater than said second axial dimension of said holding surface of said ball stud.

7. (New) The ball joint of Claim 6 wherein said holding surface and said sealing surface are cylindrical.

8. (New) The ball joint of Claim 6 wherein said sealing bellows is provided with a metal ring which urges said sealing surface against said holding surface.

9. (New) The ball joint of Claim 6 further including a vehicle component mounted to said ball joint, wherein a contact surface for said vehicle component is provided so as to adjoin said holding surface on a side of said holding surface facing away from said housing.

10. (New) The ball joint of Claim 6 further including a vehicle component mounted to said ball joint, said ball joint including a shoulder and said ball stud being mounted to said vehicle component such that said sealing surface is compressed in an axial direction between said shoulder and said vehicle component.

11. (New) The ball joint of Claim 6 further including a vehicle component mounted to said ball joint, wherein said sealing bellows is dimensioned such that it cannot slip off from said holding surface when said ball joint is not mounted to said vehicle component.

12. (New) A ball joint comprising:

a ball joint including a housing, a ball stud and a sealing bellows which lies against said housing and said ball stud in order to seal between said housing and said ball stud, said ball stud having a cylindrical holding surface against which a cylindrical sealing surface of said sealing bellows lies, said sealing bellows provided with a metal ring which urges said sealing surface against said holding surface, said sealing surface defining a first axial dimension, said holding surface defining a second axial dimension, wherein said first axial dimension of said sealing surface of said sealing bellows is greater than said second axial dimension of said holding surface of said ball stud.

13. (New) The ball joint of Claim 12 further including a vehicle component mounted to said ball joint, wherein a contact surface for said vehicle component is provided so as to adjoin said holding surface on a side of said holding surface facing away from said housing.

14. (New) The ball joint of Claim 12 further including a vehicle component mounted to said ball joint, said ball joint including a shoulder and said ball stud being mounted to said vehicle component such that said sealing surface is compressed in an axial direction between said shoulder and said vehicle component.

15. (New) The ball joint of Claim 12 further including a vehicle component mounted to said ball joint, wherein said sealing bellows is dimensioned such that it cannot slip off from said holding surface when said ball joint is not mounted to said vehicle component.

17. A method for producing a vehicle component and ball joint assembly comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a vehicle component:

(b) providing a ball joint including a housing, a ball stud and a sealing bellows which lies against the housing and the ball stud in order to seal between the housing and the ball stud, the ball stud having a holding surface against which a sealing surface of the sealing bellows lies and a shoulder, the sealing surface defining a first axial dimension when not being deformed, the holding surface defining a second axial dimension, wherein the first axial dimension of the sealing surface of the sealing bellows is greater than the second axial dimension of the holding surface of the ball stud;

(c) inserting the ball stud through the component; and

(d) securing the ball stud to the component using a fastener to thereby cause the vehicle component to lie against a contact surface of the ball stud and wherein the sealing surface of the sealing bellows is compressed in an axial direction between the shoulder and the vehicle component.

18. (New) The method for producing a vehicle component and ball joint assembly of Claim 17 wherein in step (b) the holding surface and sealing surface are cylindrical.

19. (New) The method for producing a vehicle component and ball joint assembly of Claim 17 wherein in step (b) the sealing bellows is provided with a metal ring which urges the sealing surface against the holding surface.